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MILITARY COLLECTOR & HISTORIAN

*Journal
of the Company of
Military Collectors & Historians
Washington, D. C.*

Vol. VII

No. 2

SUMMER 1955



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SOME NOTES ON THE LANCE AND LANCERS IN
THE UNITED STATES CAVALRY

by Thomas F. Thiele

It is generally regarded as fact that cavalry did not win acceptance in the United States Army until the American Civil War. Twice in the fifty years prior to 1833, the United States had no regular cavalry force at all. During much of the period from the Revolutionary War to Jackson's administration, the mounted force of the Regular Army consisted of one, or at best two, regiments. Prior to the Civil War, the United States had failed to develop either a cavalry force or a cavalry tradition. The cavalry forces employed by the United States in the Revolution, the War of 1812, and in the Mexican War were so small that their accomplishments, however bold, appear to have left little lasting impression on official military thinking. In addition, the comparatively great expense of mounting and equipping cavalry made a frequently parsimonious Congress extremely reluctant to foster its development. As one consequence of this neglect, there was very little experimentation in cavalry tactics or in cavalry weapons, and what mounted force there was consisted of light dragoons, frequently badly armed.¹ Although there were at least twelve different types of musketoons or carbines, including various models of the celebrated Hall-North carbine, available in quantity for cavalry from 1807 to the Civil War, contemporary accounts indicate that the mounted troops on occasion had inferior weapons.² In the absence of experimentation, a tendency developed to imitate

European cavalry tactics, uniforms and equipment.³ Despite the tendency to emulate things European, however, the trend never went so far in the Regular Army as to copy the lance or lancer units officially prior to the Civil War.

Outside the regular establishment, in the National Lancers of Boston in the 1840's, for example, the militia corps gave more attention to the lance and presumably focused a measure of attention upon the weapon.⁴ It should be remembered that throughout this period and lasting until the turn of the twentieth century a violent controversy raged on the subject of the proper arm for cavalry. While Montecucculi had called the lance the "queen of weapons" and the military titans employed it on the Continent (Frederick the Great introduced it among his hussars in 1744, Napoleon in 1811, and the British in 1816), with the exception of the Poles, most national armies found it less than a panacea.⁵ In spite of European willingness to try the lance, those controlling the armament of regular cavalry in the United States did not look kindly on it, and the Regular Army never successfully made effective use of lancers.

Several factors appear to have militated against the use of the lance in this country. It was governmental policy until the late 1850's to use only

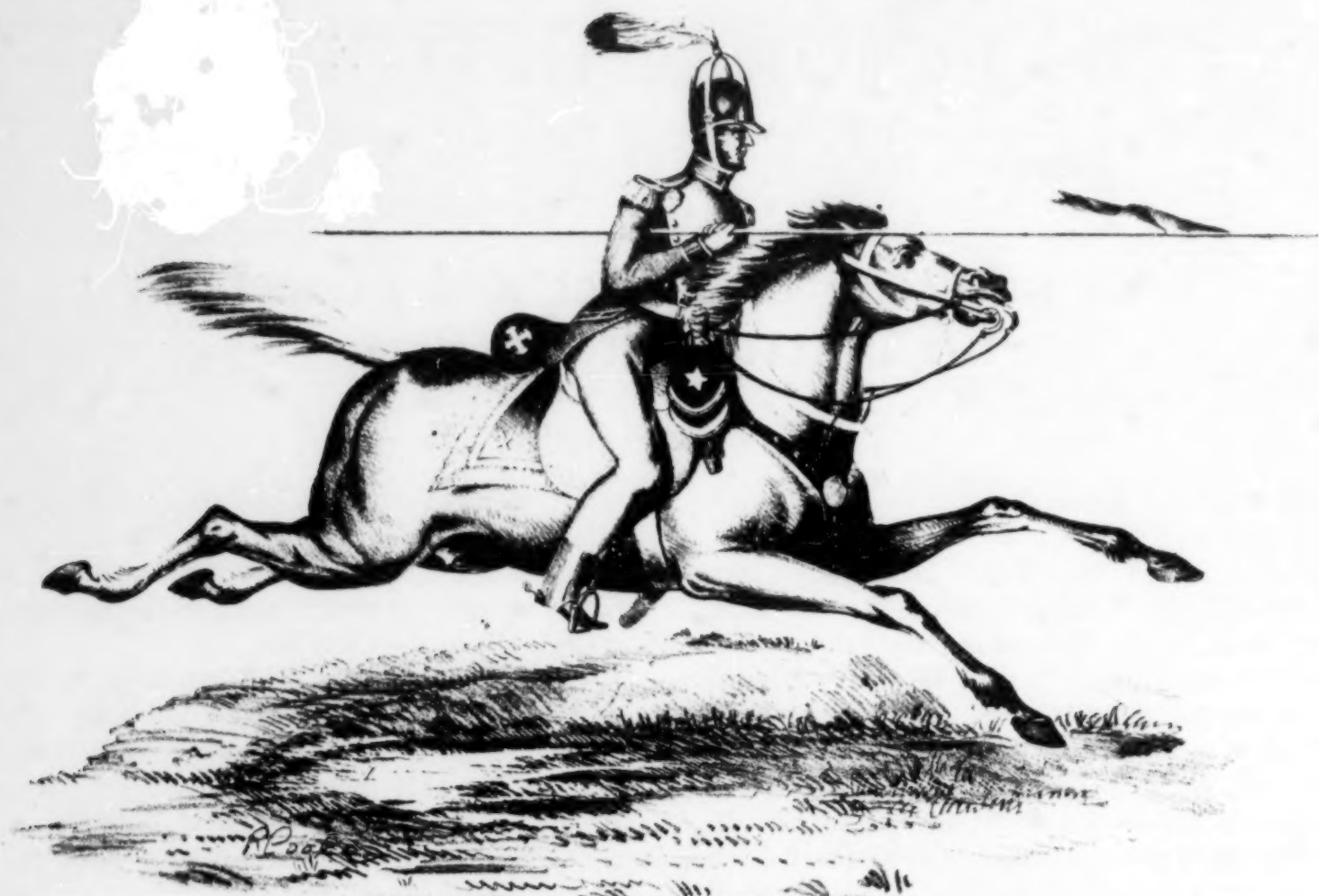
¹ The major exception, of course, was the Regiment of Mounted Rifles authorized in 1847. The First and Second Dragoon regiments and the two Cavalry regiments in existence just prior to the Civil War were, in reality, light dragoons.

² See, Theophilus Francis Rodenbaugh, *From Everglade to Cañon with the Second Dragoons*, New York, 1875, 43; [James Hildreth], *Dragoon Campaigns to the Rocky Mountains*, New York, 1836, 41; Louis Pelzer, *Marches of the Dragoons in the Mississippi Valley*, Iowa City, 1917, 19; Philip St. G. Cooke, *Scenes and Adventures in the Army*, Philadelphia, 1857, 220.

³ Scott's *Tactics*, 1829 and Poinsette's *Tactics* of 1841, which served as the bases for Hardee's *Tactics*, were largely copies of the French tactics. Cooke's *Tactics* were the exception, but were not accepted until 1861, too late to be in general use in the early years of the Civil War. While the official War Department tactics included the manual of the lance, the inclusion seems to have been made on general principle rather than with a view to encouraging the lance.

⁴ Use of the title "lancers" did not mean a militia corps necessarily carried the weapon.

⁵ The cavalry weapon controversy is well discussed in George Taylor Denison, *A History of Cavalry from the Earliest Times with Lessons for the Future*, London, 1913, and L. E. Nolan, *Cavalry: Its History and Tactics*, London, 1860.



T. Moore's Lithography, Boston (successor to Pondleton)

THE LANCER'S QUICK STEP.
~ Respectfully dedicated to

GENERAL DAVIS,

& THE OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE

NATIONAL LANCERS.

As performed by

J. BARTLETT'S BRASS BAND, AUG. 30th 1837.

MUSIC BY

F. L. RAYMOND.

Boston. Published by H. PRENTISS, No. 2 Pemberton Hill.

National Lancers of Boston (now 180th Field Artillery Battalion, Mass. N. G.) in 1837. This troop carried lances for about 80 years. From a contemporary music cover, H. Prentiss, Boston.

mounted troops capable of dismounted action, and the lance is a clumsy weapon when its bearer is on foot.⁶ As cavalry tactics developed in the United States toward the high plane reached during the Civil War, emphasis was on the use of rapidly concentrated fire power, and the mounted rifleman was found to be the most effective type of cavalryman. Furthermore, much of the United States was heavily wooded, and the lance was an encumbrance among the trees and the undergrowth. Still another factor was the Indian. Since the chief enemy during much of the period prior to the Civil War was the Indian, and the Indian rarely would come to grips with an organized force, the lancer was of little value to the army. Even the sabre was often considered a noisy nuisance, rattling in its scabbard, in service against the Indian. A further consideration was the attitude of General Winfield Scott who was certainly an influential and often controlling factor in American military thought during much of this period. As late as 1861, Scott stated that Virginia was too cut up with fences and other obstructions to make operations with large bodies of cavalry practical.⁷ This condition probably applied to other areas of the eastern United States at least, and the same argument would certainly apply against the lance since its effectiveness depended upon a mass charge driven home at speed.⁸ Yet another factor which worked against the lance was the absence of tradition which develops familiarity and trust. To use a weapon well, the user needs confidence in it, and the lance was an alien arm. This intangible quality appears to have worked against the sabre to a lesser degree, for through the pre-Civil War period as well as during the war itself, frequent observations were made that the mounted man preferred the pistol and carbine to the sabre, although the sabre was used often and on occasion effectively. Certain it is that the average American soldier was more at home with a firearm. Long and disciplined training was required to make a good lancer or sabre wielder, and extensive training was something that cavalry recruits often did without.

⁶ For a full discussion of the official attitude toward cavalry in the United States, see: Albert Gallatin Brackett, *History of the United States Cavalry* . . . June, 1863, New York, 1865.

⁷ Quoted in Agathe Schurz, ed., *The Reminiscences of Carl Schurz*, 3 vols., New York, 1907-1908, II, 229-231. See also, James H. Kidd, *Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman* . . . Civil War, 32-33.

⁸ Nolan, *Cavalry*; 129-136.

All of these factors seem to have prevailed successfully against the lance. There is no evidence to show that the War Department ever encouraged the use of the lance seriously, but some non-official attempts in this direction were made.

One of the few early efforts to develop the lance in the United States Army occurred when young Captain Hardee, later General, C. S. A. and author of Hardee's *Tactics*, returned from a tour with a military mission in France. In the flush of his enthusiasm over the things he saw there, he talked Colonel Twiggs of the Second Dragoons into arming two squadrons with improvised lances, but the experiment was of short duration and presumably not too successful.⁹

Some slight interest in the lance as a cavalry weapon developed when the United States Army and its volunteer associates were exposed to the Mexican lancers in the war with Mexico, but aside from one small experiment, what interest there was waned rapidly when it was found that the Mexicans were more adept in the use of the weapon

⁹ Rodenbaugh, *Everglade to Cañon*, 84. Rodenbaugh states that the lances were home-made, and no details on the design of this particular lance have been found. Albert G. Brackett, writing in 1863, stated that, "We have yet to make good lancers in the United States, as experiments, even on a small scale, have proved failures among the Americans." Brackett, *op. cit.*, 83-84.

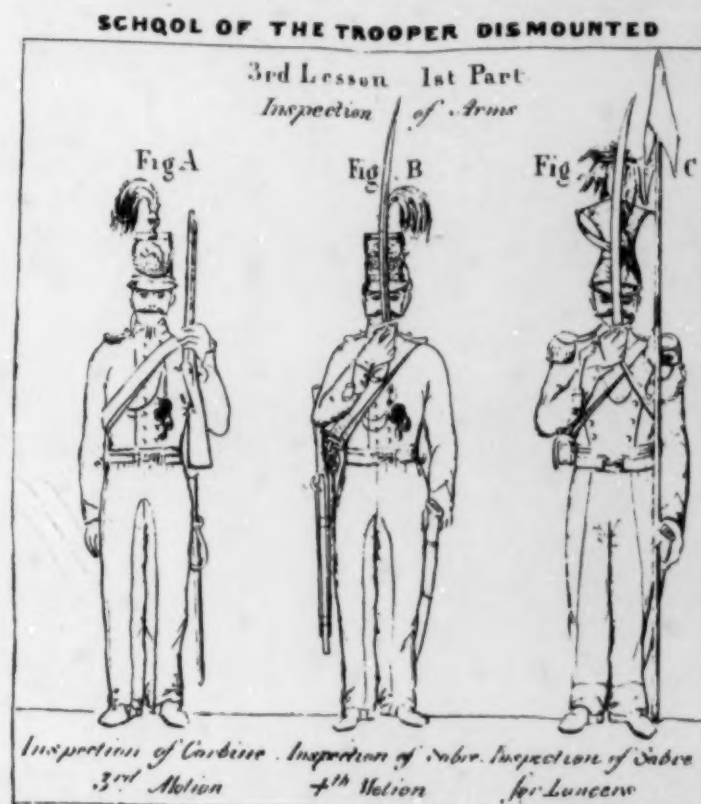


Plate 22, U. S. War Department, *CAVALRY TACTICS*, J. and G. S. Gideon, Washington, D. C., 1841. The manual of the lance is completely covered in this manual, used as late as the Civil War.

than were the U. S. troopers.¹⁰ The experiment occurred in 1847 when Manuel Dominguez formed his green-jacketed "Spy Company" from men of many nationalities, and the men were armed with lance, carbine and sabre. Although some good service was rendered by the company, its use of the lance did not sufficiently impress the Army to carry the weapon beyond the war.

Not until the tremendous enthusiasm of 1861 for things military produced a large number of volunteer cavalry regiments in both armies did the lance again make its appearance in action. As is generally known, both belligerents went to extremes to procure arms, and largely as a result of the lack of conventional arms, official thoughts turned to the lance. In 1861, the United States government authorized a soldier of fortune, "Colonel" Smolenska, to recruit a regiment of United States Lancers, pre-

¹⁰ Brackett, *op. cit.*, 84.

sumably from among men of Polish origin.¹¹ These lancers never materialized as such, but, for reasons not stated, became instead prosaic cavalymen of the Ninth New York Cavalry.

As if to keep the would-be Polish lancers company, in 1861 Governor Morgan of New York sought to get permission for one Colonel Graham to raise a regiment of lancers, but this project also came to grief.¹² About the same time, Iowa authorized a former German officer, a "Colonel" Pleyel, to raise a lancer unit near Burlington, Iowa, but once again, after some progress was made, the unit failed to materialize. Pleyel's lancers became a part of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry and never saw

¹¹ Newel Cheney, *History of the Ninth Regiment, New Yorker Volunteer Cavalry, War of 1861 to 1865*, Poland Center, N. Y., 1901, 20.

¹² *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 70 Vols., Washington, 1880-1901, Series III, vol. I, 596. Hereafter cited as *The War of the Rebellion*.



Men of the 1st Regiment United States Lancers, a Michigan regiment, 1861-62, better known as "Rankin's Lancers." Its organization was never completed. HARPER'S WEEKLY, 21 December 1861.

a lance.¹³ In addition, in 1862 Colonel Arthur Rankin of Windsor, Canada, recruited eight companies to be assigned to a regiment designated as the First United States Lancers. Although the regiment was "fully armed," it was disbanded before it served as a unit in the field, and many of the men were absorbed into other regiments.¹⁴

Like the Union, the Confederacy, in its efforts to arm a cavalry force, had recourse to the lance. Following the pattern of its adversary. Confederate plans for a lancer unit seem to have spluttered to a halt, although the beginning was certainly flamboyant enough. In March 1862, the sovereign state of Texas announced that:

Col. James P. Morgan, . . . has been commissioned by the Secretary of War to raise a regiment of lancers. Let the valiant sons of Texas rally from the hilltops and the valleys, like Highland Scots to the bugle blast of the bold McGregor's horn . . .¹⁵

The records remain silent on the results of this particular appeal; but, in Virginia, a company of lancers apparently existed, for it was recorded in the diary of Confederate artilleryman George Neese, on 3 January 1862, that:

This afternoon a company of our Cavalry passed us, armed with lances, which consisted of a steel spear about ten inches long mounted on a wooden shaft about eight feet long. These were some of the identical weapons that the saintly martyr, John Brown, had at Harpers Ferry, . . .¹⁶

It is possible that a company of Confederate cavalry, in lieu of more conventional arms, had received some of John Brown's pikes. If such a unit existed, however, it must have been disbanded or rearmed, for it excited no further comment, and the official records contain no reference to it.

Although Confederate Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin had stated in February 1862 that the government would accept lancers and would provide the lance, and, in fact, placed an order for 1,000 lances, the Confederate high command never considered the experiment as seriously as did the Federals.¹⁷ It is of interest, however, to note that

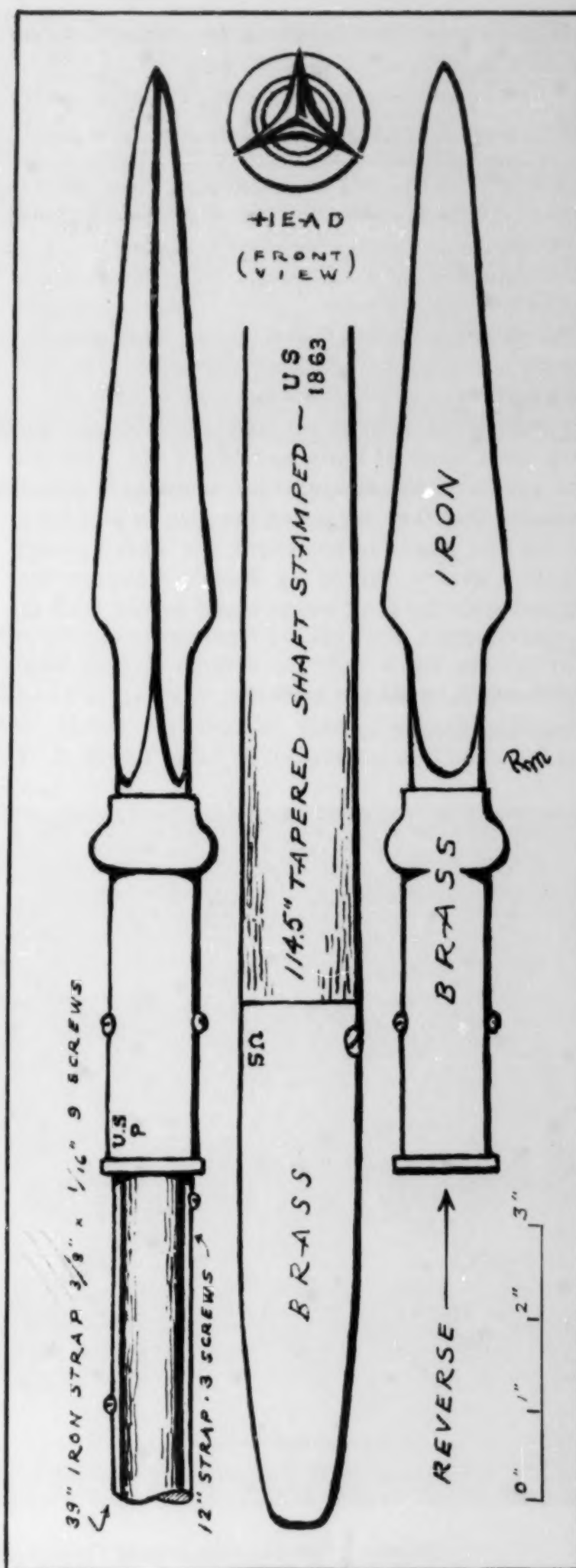
¹³ *Ibid.*, 617, 626. See also, William Forse Scott, *The Story of a Cavalry Regiment*, New York, 1893, 8.

¹⁴ Michigan Adjutant General's Office, *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War 1861-1865*, Kalamazoo, Michigan [1905], vol. 55, p. 149.

¹⁵ *The War of the Rebellion*, series IV, vol. I, 1007.

¹⁶ George M. Neese, *Three Years in the Confederate Horse Artillery*, New York, 1911, 13-14.

¹⁷ *The War of the Rebellion*, series IV, vol. I, 622, cites a report by Lt. Col. Gorgas which includes a statement that an order for 1,000 lances was still outstanding. *Ibid.*, 948 cites a letter from Secretary of War Benjamin to Governor Brown in February 1862, offering to supply the lances for a Georgia cavalry unit.



United States Lance, Collection of R. L. Miller

Major-General John Bankhead Magruder, C. S. A., in March 1862, wrote to R. E. Lee:

I beg leave to recommend the arming of cavalry with lances and shotguns, if to be had. The former can be made by any carpenter and ordinary blacksmith . . . and in my opinion [are] more efficient than the saber.¹⁸

Lieutenant Colonel (later General) Ewell, also is on record as favoring the lance as an expedient, but apparently he did not push the idea.¹⁹

It remained for the Federals under McClellan to give the lance the only full scale trial that weapon ever received in the United States. Just how and under what circumstances the idea of a lancer unit originated is not clear, but since McClellan turned to three Europeans on his staff, the Duc de Chartres, the Comte de Paris, and Major Hammerstein for advice on the design of the weapon, it is quite possible that they suggested the idea to McClellan in the first place. In any event, the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry, famed as Rush's Lancers, was armed with the long weapon and served with the

weapon in the Army of the Potomac. The regiment under Rush, a West Pointer, had originally been scheduled to receive sabres and Colt revolvers, but, in November 1861, McClellan asked for a regiment of lancers, and the Sixth Pennsylvania was chosen for the experiment.

Since the War Department had no such weapon, a careful study of the lance as used in foreign service was made, and the three Europeans on McClellan's staff gave "valuable advice and assistance." The Ordnance Department supplied the lances, having them made under contract according to the specifications decided upon.²⁰ An adaptation of the Austrian pattern, it was about nine feet long with an eleven inch, three-edged blade. The staff was of Norway fir, about one and one quarter inches in diameter with ferrule and counterpoise at the heel—the whole weighing four pounds

²⁰ *Ibid.*, series III, volume II, 851. It is interesting to note that General Ripley of the Ordnance Department reported to Secretary of War Stanton, 21 November 1862, that the Department had purchased 4,301 lances—far more than would be required for the Sixth Pennsylvania. Either Ripley planned on a very heavy rate of attrition, or else consideration was being given to supplying other units with the lance.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, series I, vol. XI, part 3, 390.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, series I, vol. II, 62.



Sketches of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry (Rush's Lancers), embarking at Alexandria, Va., for the Peninsula in May 1862, by Winslow Homer. In the Cooper Union Museum for the Arts of Decoration; reproduced with permission.



Men of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry (Rush's Lancers) shown in bivouac in 1862. Reproduced from the Collections of the Library of Congress.

thirteen ounces.²¹ Colonel Rush considered this too heavy, but it was accepted.

The people of Philadelphia contributed funds and purchased 1,000 scarlet swallow-tailed pennons for the lances. So armed and decorated, the regiment made a brave showing and attracted great attention wherever it went. Although popular with spectators and officers, the men hated the clumsy lance in which, indeed, they felt no confidence. As one of Rush's men put it, "The officers like it, but the men do not, and the officers wouldn't if they had to use them."²²

To be able to report one solid, colorful, successful charge, lance in rest, boot to boot, would be comforting and would relieve frustration, but such a report would necessarily be fabrication. The record indicates not one such charge. The historian of the regiment dwells wholeheartedly on the combat activities of the unit after it had given up the lance in exchange for sabre and carbine, but his account of the Sixth Pennsylvania in action prior to 1863 is epitomized by his statement that:

*Our weapon being unfitted for any service but the charge, we were held only to resist attack from the enemy . . .*²³

Supporting batteries and doing picket duty, lightened by occasional futile chases after Stuart,

seem to have been the lot of the Sixth Pennsylvania.

The only comparatively full word picture of Rush's Lancers in action is scarcely a flattering one. Heros von Borcke, giant German aide on J. E. B. Stuart's staff, is the author, and he had this to say:

They stood 300 yards from us in line of battle, and presented, with their glittering lances, from the point of each which fluttered a red-and-white pennon, and their fresh, well-fitting blue uniforms turned up with yellow, a fine martial appearance. One of our regiments was immediately ordered to attack them; but before our Virginia horsemen got within fifty yards of their line, this magnificent regiment, which had doubtless excited the liveliest admiration in the Northern cities, turned tail and fled in disorder, strewing the whole line of their retreat with their picturesque but inconvenient arms. The entire skirmish, if such it may be called, was over in less time than is required to record it: and I do not believe that out of the whole body of 700 men, more than twenty retained their lances. Their sudden and total discomfiture furnished a striking proof of the fact that this weapon, formidable enough in the hand of one accustomed to wield it, is a downright absurdity and encumbrance to the inexperienced.²⁴

While von Borcke has never been noted for the objectivity of his opinions nor for the accuracy of his reporting, yet the conclusion presented in his heavy, Germanic sentences is valid. In untrained hands, the weapon had little utility. Apparently, the Federals would have agreed with him, for in 1863, the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry abandoned the lance and picked up sabres and revolvers, thus ending the only full chapter in the history of the lance in the United States Army.

²¹ Samuel Lewis Gracey, *Annals of the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry*, Philadelphia, 1868, 34.

²² "Lancers and Dragoons," in *The United States Army and Navy Journal*, I, 14 November 1863, 185.

²³ Gracey, *op. cit.*, 65.

²⁴ Heros von Borcke, *Memoirs of the Confederate War for Independence*, N. Y., 1938, I, 54-55.

THE RUMOR OF THE WOLFHOUND'S COLORS

by John W. Wike

"Rumor is too short-lived to stand up in competition with glory, which is everlasting."

—Steele in the *Spectator*, 9 November 1711.

The 27th Infantry Regiment (Wolfhounds) has received as much praise as any unit in the Army, praise that was justly deserved and needs no repeating here. At the same time, it has also been the victim of one of the worst types of rumor to befall a fighting outfit, namely that it lost its colors in Siberia in 1919 while part of the Siberian Expedition. This story has, in one version or another, been making the rounds since 1920.¹ One embellishment of it is that for years the 27th paraded its Russian Wolfhound, "Kolchak," in place of the lost colors because the War Department refused it new ones. Another is that portions of the unit refused to do duty during the expedition. Just recently, after a particularly gallant action in Korea, one writer went so far as to say that the 27th had "vindicated" itself. This is remarkable considering that the Regiment had no stain on its record to vindicate. The time has come, therefore, to kill this rumor.

Here are the facts. In mid-August 1918, the fighting men of the 27th Infantry Regiment arrived in Vladivostok from Manila. With colors waving they paraded on the 19th and were reviewed by General Otani, Japanese Army; Admiral Knight, U. S. Navy; General Deiderichs, Czecho-Slovak Army; and Colonel Styer, then commanding the American Expeditionary Forces. From that moment to the end of its stay in Russia, the 27th acted in the best traditions of the United States Army, and when its soldiers embarked from Russian soil in December 1920, they did so with the praise of the local Russians and of the Allies ringing in their ears.

On 19 August 1919, Colonel Morrow, commanding the Regiment, made a request for new colors in which he stated:

Regimental and National Colors have been in service about fourteen years. The silk is now so rotten that the colors can not be repaired . . . It is requested that new colors be obtained for and forwarded to this regiment [but that the unit] be permitted to retain present colors here as no others are available for use and it is very undesirable that a regiment should be without colors in this country.²

Four days later, Headquarters, A.E.F., Siberia, approved the request and cabled to the States for the flags.³ Then, on the 8th of the following month the 27th received permission to continue to use the old colors until new ones could be obtained.⁴ Meanwhile, on 4 September, The Adjutant General informed General Graves, then commanding the A.E.F. in Siberia, that a Regimental Color for the 27th had been shipped from Jeffersonville, Indiana as early as 30 April, and a National Color from Philadelphia on 4 September.⁵ A few days later he reported that the colors had left San Francisco on 5 June. The colors that he referred to are none other than the ones supposed to have been lost dishonorably! They started to the Regiment but never reached it. Far from being lost in disgrace, they do not seem even to have been received. They were lost in transit! The proof of this follows:

On 21 April 1922 the commanding officer, 27th Infantry—the unit was by this time at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii—again made a request for new colors. In doing so, he stated that the Regimental colors then in use were so tattered and torn as to present an unsightly appearance, having been in service about sixteen years.⁶ Note the sixteen years! They add up to show that the flags then in use were the same old colors as had been identified as too ragged for use back in 1919. Not lost at all, just a little more ragged. At last in 1922, new colors reached the 27th, and the old ones were finally given a rest.

Now we come to the final evidence. It happened in 1928 that The Adjutant General required all installations to report the colors and guidons in their

¹ Confirmation of author Wike's statement was not long in coming. We called Master Sergeant Hugh F. O'Reilly, the celebrated publicist of the Wolfhounds (see *New Yorker*, 9 May 1953) who is soon to be technical advisor of the Columbia movie "The Gentle Wolfhound," for verification of the lost-color story. His version, seriously believed, was that the colors had been taken away because of a high AWOL record.—Ed.

² Cablegram in Record Group 120, World War I Organization Records, A.E.F. in Siberia, National Archives.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ AG Documentation Record Group 94, Decimal Files, National Archives.



Commanding Officer and Staff of the 27th Infantry Regiment in front of their headquarters at Habarovsk, Siberia, 14 November 1918. In the left background are the regimental colors and standard, the first to be brought ashore in Siberia.

possession, whether stored or on display. When the Quartermaster Depot of the Philippine Islands turned in its report on 17 August 1928, what should appear on it but two silk regimental colors belonging to the 27th Infantry. At once the commander of the 27th was ordered to explain why he had made no report of these colors. His reply, in the form of a fifth indorsement, deserves to be reproduced in full. It gives the final coup to the old lost-colors rumor:

October 18, 1928—To Commanding General,
Schofield Barracks, T.H.

1. At present date there are no officers on duty with this regiment who were on duty with it at the time the unit changed station from the Philippine Islands to Schofield Barracks, T.H., in Dec 1920.

2. Information obtained from Master Sergeants: Mark Master, then Sergeant, Co., "B", Clyde W. Fisel, then 1st Sgt. Co. "M", David D. Gross, then 1st Sgt. Co. "C", and 1st Sgt. William McIntyre, then 1st Sgt. Supply Company, shows conclusively that this regiment, upon the above change of station, had its colors, which were brought from Siberia to Manila in 1920. These colors, at the time of arrival of the regiment at Schofield Barracks, were very ragged. They were replaced by new colors, now in use, about 1923. The unserviceable colors replaced in 1923 are now in storage at this station.

3. No further information is at hand as to why the particular colors referred to in basic letter were not included in the shipment of regimental property from Manila December 15, 1920 . . .

Once this reached The Adjutant General it produced a flurry of letters and indorsements. The upshot was that the Philippine Quartermaster Depot decided the colors were not those of the 27th after all.⁷ How could this be? Either the name of the Regiment was embroidered upon the scroll in the colors or it was not. In any case, the unclaimed colors were packed and shipped off to the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot.

What is to be made of this incident? Simply this: the colors turned up in the Philippine Depot were those ordered by the 27th in 1919. They had apparently trailed around after the Regiment, never quite reaching it, until finally they came to a halt, unnoticed, in the Depot. So, after all, it turns out that the colors of the 27th were not lost at all, not even in transit. The replacements only were lost.

⁷ *Ibid.*

MILITARY DRESS IN MARYLAND¹

by Anne S. K. Brown

Some years ago a distinguished military artist in Europe, Herbert Knoetel of Berlin, made a series of drawings of Maryland militia from the information contained in Ruckle's picture.² Knoetel, whose father was a world-famous authority on uniforms, was able, from his own vast knowledge of the subject, to fill in the gaps and present the various uniforms and equipment in great detail.

First (Plate 22), we see Major General Samuel Smith, the 62-year old Senator and veteran of the Revolution, who was called by the Committee of Safety to command the defense of Baltimore. He is wearing a major general's uniform, a blue coat faced with buff, in the Revolutionary tradition, but now the collar is legitimately high and the coat is buttoned across the breast. His epaulettes and sash indicate his rank, as does his cocked hat with the high white plume. The blue ribbon and eagle of the Cincinnati hanging from his left lapel show him to be a veteran officer of Washington's army.

This is a staff officer (Plate 23). His overalls reinforced with leather and ending in leather bootees, his spurs and curved sabre, indicate a mounted man. His blue coat laced with gold is similar in cut to that worn by Major Armistead, the brilliant commander of Fort McHenry during the bombardment, in the portrait which hangs in this room.

We see here an officer of the 1st Baltimore Hussars,³ who were also engaged in General Stricker's operation. His white armband shows him to be serving as an aide-de-camp, whose duty it was to carry messages from one part of the battlefield to another. This and reconnaissance were the chief functions of cavalry at the time, although three of Colonel Biays' dragoons (Plate 24) are recorded as having staged an intrepid, if unauthorized, charge on the rear of the British the day following their retreat from Baltimore, thus striking the last blow of the campaign. The typical dragoon headdress of this date was the round leather helmet with

visor, fur crest, and plume shown in this picture, and probably originated in America in "Light Horse" Harry Lee's cavalry. It was taken back to England by Colonel Tarleton, and to the Continent by Count Rumford, where it was widely worn. My English friends do not admit this, finding it difficult to believe that the ragged Continentals could have originated any important military fashion.

It had long been the custom to dress trumpeters (Plate 25) in reverse colors to make them more conspicuous, and hence easier to spot in the confusion of battle. It would be proper for the troopers of this dragoon company to wear blue jackets with red collars, since the trumpeter is wearing red with blue.

This is a private of militia infantry (Plate 26), probably from one of the independent companies belonging to the Fifth Regiment, which was gen-



(Plate 22)
Major General Samuel Smith, Commanding the defense of Baltimore. From a painting by Herbert Knoetel.

¹ Being the third portion of an illustrated lecture given before the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 8 February 1954.

² Thomas Ruckle's painting of the assembly of the troops for the defense of Baltimore. See *Plate 17, MC&H, VI, 11.*

³ *MC&H, III, 84.*



(Plate 23) Staff officer of the Maryland Militia.

(Plate 24) Trooper of Colonel Biays' Dragoons.

(Plate 25) Trumpeter of Maryland dragoon company.

(Plate 26) Private, Maryland Volunteer Infantry, probably of the 5th Regiment.

From paintings by Herbert Knoetel.



(Plate 27) Private, Maryland Volunteers Infantry, probably of the Independent Blues.
 (Plate 28) Company officers, Maryland Volunteer Infantry.
 (Plate 29) Drummer, Maryland Volunteer Infantry.
 (Plate 30) Rifleman or sharpshooter, Maryland Militia.
 From paintings by Herbert Knoetel.



(Plate 31)
Artillery officer of the Maryland Militia. From a painting by Herbert Knoetel.

erally conceded to be the smartest of the Maryland units. Note the change in the uniform since the Revolution. The three-cornered hat has given way to the shako, or stove-pipe cap with visor; standing collar has replaced the flat collar, and the coat is much shorter and partly closed in front over the short waistcoat. Tight breeches and spatter-dashes have been replaced for the infantry by loose overalls, which were generally white for summer. The embroidered epaulettes shown here were called "wings", and were principally worn by drummers and trumpeters.

Actually, all of these Maryland soldiers are behind the times in style. Long before 1814 the Regulars had given up the long "cutaway" coat for the short, swallow-tailed coatee. The infantryman shown here (Plate 27) is wearing a civilian round hat with cockade and plume, a headdress common at this period. In the military this had given way to the visored cap, but British marines, and French and American sailors wore a similar headdress at the beginning of the 19th century. The uniform is probably that of the Independent Blues, the artist's own company, since it occupies the most important position in the painting.

This is a company officer of militia (Plate 28), so distinguished by his epaulette, sash, and sword, and by the red stripe down his trousers.

The infantry drummer (Plate 29), like the cavalry trumpeter, wears reversed colors for better identification. Orders were transmitted in the field chiefly by trumpet and drum, in the absence of walkie-talkies. Here is a rifleman, or sharpshooter (Plate 30), wearing the hunting shirt of the Revolution. In fact, the Continental name for this type of soldier was "chasseur" or "jaeger," both words meaning "hunter." He was trained, among other things, to conceal himself in the bushes and pick off generals with his rifle, exactly what Private McComas accomplished when he dispatched General Ross on the North Point Road, thereby making himself hero Number 2 of the momentous repulse of British by the Baltimoreans. I imagine that General Sam Smith was hero Number 1 in his brilliant conception and execution of the over-all defense; Major Armistead, in holding Fort McHenry against a galling fire from British ships his guns could not reach, was hero Number 3; and General Stricker, by his coolness in holding the green militia together against Wellington's veterans long enough to do them real damage, was hero Number 4.



(Plate 32)
Officer, gunner, and drummer, Maryland Militia Artillery, 1814. Reproduced from Plate 30, MILITARY DRESS IN AMERICA.

If there was a hero Number 5, it was the whole Maryland Artillery, which fought with magnificent grit under the most trying circumstances. Just firing a fieldpiece in those days, or standing near one when fired, was a hazardous adventure. And fighting guns against men charging you with naked bayonets was no picnic. The infantryman could turn tail and run when he was scared, but the poor devil of a gunner had first to hitch horses (that were more scared than he) to the blessed guns and drive them away, or else drag the guns off by hand. The picture (Plate 31) shows an artillery officer with his spy glass and map, and is the last of the Knoetel drawings.

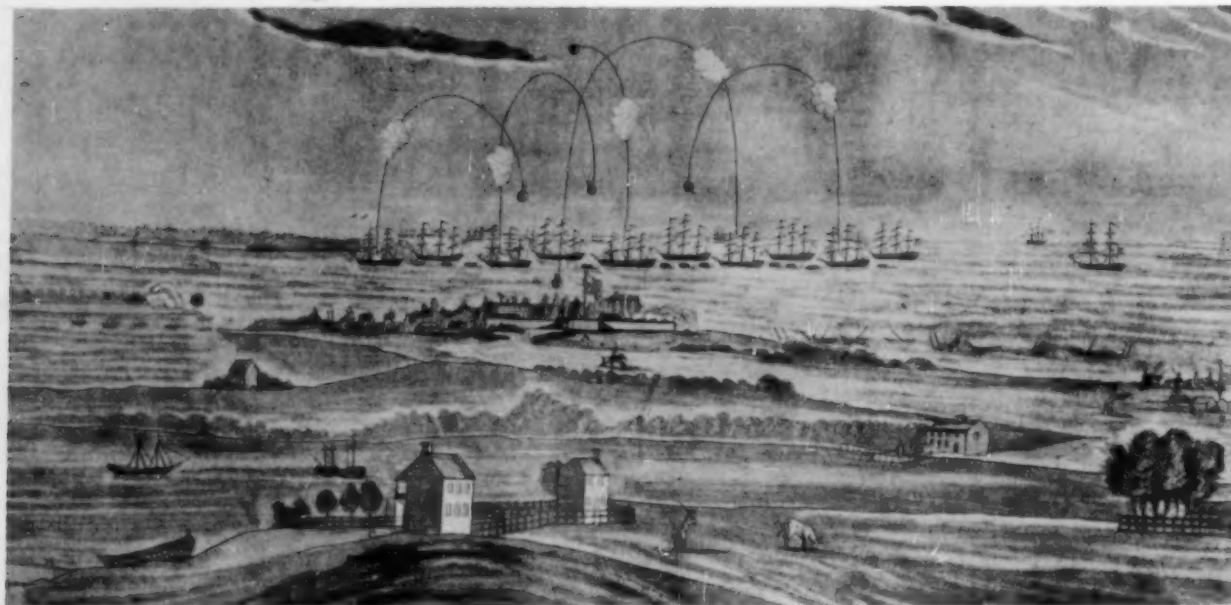
Here (Plate 32) are a gunner and drummer with an officer, drawn by H. Charles McBarron from the Ruckle painting and published by the Company of Military Collectors & Historians.⁴ The gunner or matross, as this one is called, is carrying an ammunition pouch, a drag rope, or bricole, and two other tools of his trade, called a linstock and a port-fire stock. American artillerymen had worn blue coats faced with red since the beginning of the Revolution. These are wearing the cocked hat or chapeau bras of the time with a red plume.

This view (Plate 33) of the bombardment of Fort McHenry—the now famous “Perilous Night” of the Star Spangled Banner, is from a reprint of the original engraving by J. Bowers of Philadelphia in

⁴Plate No. 30, *MC&H*, II.

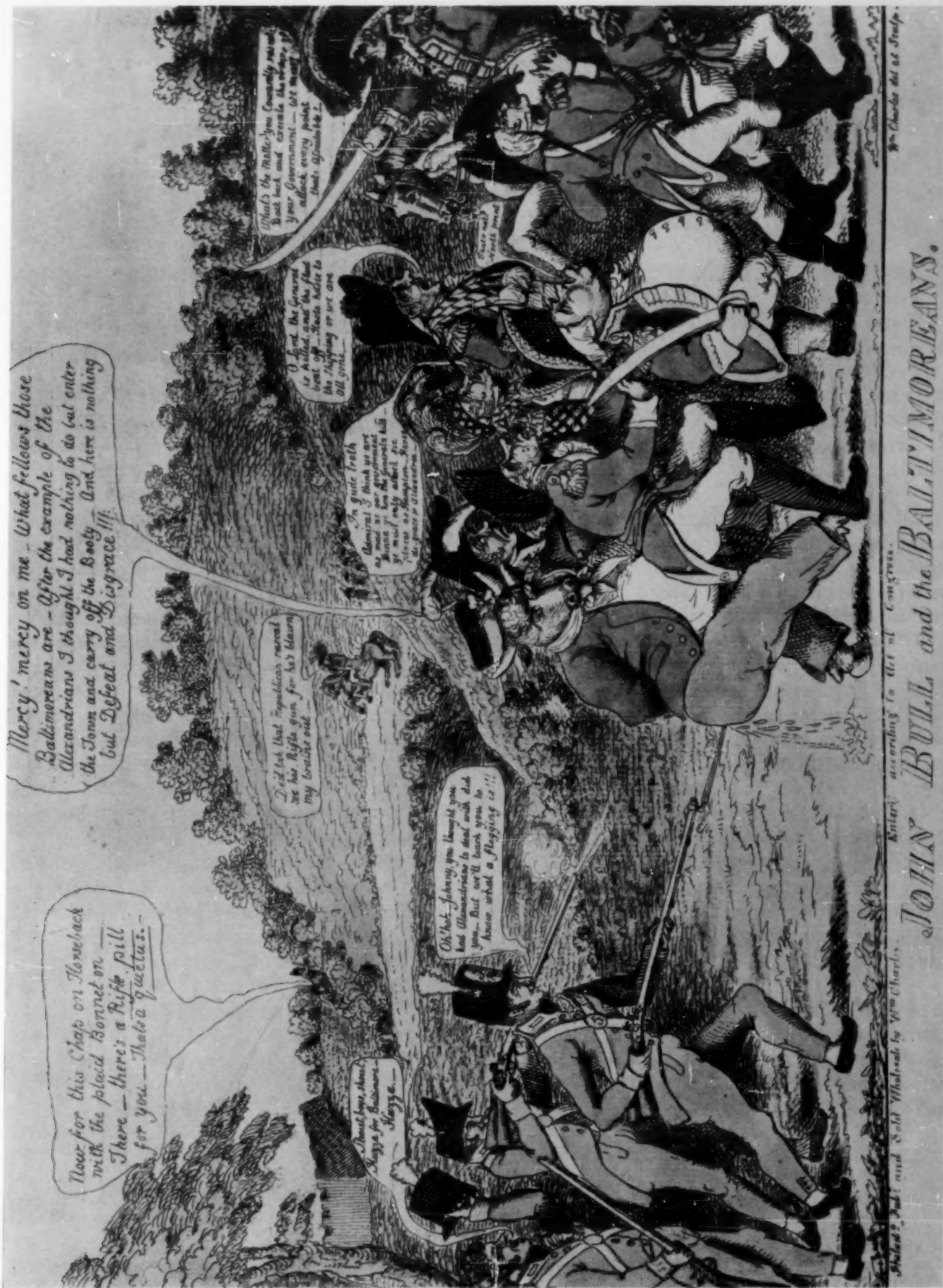
the Peale Museum in Baltimore. It shows quite clearly why the night was so perilous. The 200-pound mortar shells from the British bomb ships, anchored out of range of the Fort's own guns, are falling from above on the helpless defenders, who have no proper shelter from a vertical attack, but only ramparts designed to protect them from horizontal fire. How they stood such a bombardment for 25 hours, with rockets thrown in, without surrendering is entirely due to the fortitude of the gunners, the sang-froid of Major Armistead, and the mercy of God, possibly in reverse order.

At the end of the war, two cartoons were published in Philadelphia by William Charles. One, called “Johnny Bull and the Alexandrians” shows the American army with asses heads being driven off by British bayonets. This one (Plate 34), called “John Bull and the Baltimoreans,” shows the Baltimore militia administering the same medicine to the British. The leading infantryman, who has a large “5th Regt” on his shako plate and a number “5” on his belt plate, is saying, “Oh ho, Johnny, you thought you had Alexandrians to deal with, did you—but we’ll teach you to know what a flogging is!” In the bushes at the left is Henry McComas shooting General Ross off his charger, who cries, “Deil tak’ that Republican rascal we his rifle-gun, for he’s blown my brains out!” This picture, more than any other, proves the great popular enthusiasm aroused by the defense of Baltimore.



(Plate 33)

Bombardment of Fort McHenry. Reproduced from the original print by J. Bowers, Philadelphia, in the Peale Museum of Baltimore. Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society.



(Plate 34)
Contemporary cartoon by William Charles, Philadelphia, portraying the repulse of the British forces at Baltimore.

THE PLATES

HESSE-CASSEL FIELD JAEGER CORPS, 1776-1783

(Plate No. 101)

The treaty signed in January 1776 between King George III and the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, for German troops to serve in America, included two companies of Field Jaegers or riflemen. These light troops had first been raised in Hesse-Cassel in 1758 and had taken part in the Seven Years War against France. They were trained marksmen, recruited from among the hunters and gamekeepers of the state.¹

The need in America for men skilled in woods fighting had been foreseen as early as 1776 and the need grew as the American Revolution continued. Subsequent agreements were reached for more Hessian Field Jaeger companies until, by the summer of 1777, there were five foot companies and one mounted jaeger squadron, with an authorized strength of 1067 officers and men, nominally formed into the Field Jaeger Corps under Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig Johann Adam von Wurmb. Actually, at that time the Corps totalled scarcely 500 officers and men, and it is quite certain that it never reached its full strength. Moreover, detachments were always being drawn off for special jobs. Because of this, the Corps was credited by the German Army with an impressive number of American battle honors, of which a few are Flatbush, White Plains, Trenton, Brandywine and Yorktown. Elements of the Field Jaeger Corps doubtless fought in every important battle of the Revolution and a sizeable portion surrendered at Yorktown.

The Hessian Field Jaegers wore green coats and waistcoats, the former having crimson facings and cuffs. In summer they wore buff or white linen breeches, but usually the riflemen had breeches to

match the coat. On parade, the Jaegers wore tall feathers of green above green cockades, but feathers of other colors distinguished the officers, sergeants and others.²

The green uniform, trimmed with red, dates back to the establishment of the first Prussian field jaeger corps in 1744.³ But long before that, German huntsmen and foresters had worn green clothing and it had become a symbol of their trade. From then on until today green, in uniform or insignia, has denoted the riflemen in most armies.

Enough has been written elsewhere about the rifles carried by the Hessian Field Jaegers to justify merely a summary here.⁴ Their weapons were more than often personally owned—the same they used in the game preserves and forests of Germany. These rifles were short and heavy, with barrel length up to perhaps 32 inches. Barrels were commonly octagonal and their bores were large. The rifles did not take a bayonet. Ramrods were of iron or steel. Stocks were quite distinctive in design and almost always fitted with a patch or flint box having a sliding wooden lid.

The enlisted Jaegers carried quite plain weapons, but those belonging to officers were often highly decorated. In general, the Jaeger rifle was considerably inferior to its American counterpart in accuracy and ease of firing; it was, in the 1770's, an outmoded weapon. The same makes of rifle were carried by both foot and mounted Jaegers.

Herbert Knoetel
Frederick P. Todd

¹Claus v. Bredow, *Historische Rang-und Stammliste des deutschen Heeres*, Berlin, 1905, pp. 609-610; Edward J. Lowell, *The Hessians and Other German Auxiliaries of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War*, New York, 1884, pp. 20, 107-8. "Jaeger" can be roughly translated as "hunter" or "woodsman"; a "feldjaeger," therefore, was a hunter in military field service.

²The Hessian Field Jaeger Corps is illustrated by Charles M. Leferts in his *Uniforms . . . of the American Revolution*, where the officer's plume is shown.

³Prussian War Office, *Geschichte der Bekleidung, Bewaffnung und Ausrüstung des königlich preussischen Heeres*, Weimar, 1902, vol. III, pp. 60 ff.

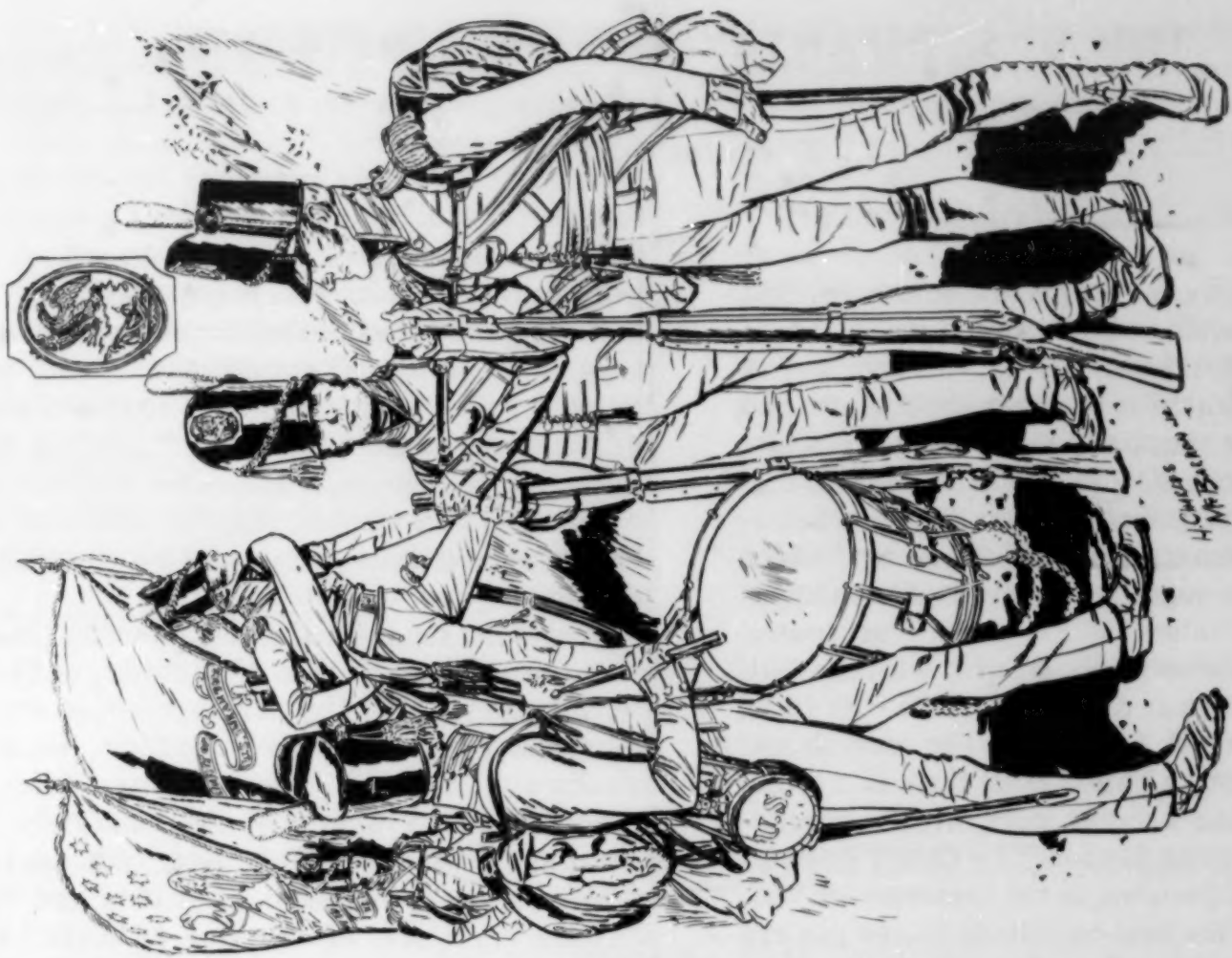
⁴Charles W. Sawyer, *Firearms in American History*, Boston, 1910, pp. 140-43.



Mounted Jaeger

Foot Jaeger

Hesse-Cassel Field Jaeger Corps, 1776-1783



*Musician, Company Officer and Private,
Winter Field Uniform*

*Sergeant,
Dress Uniform*

18th U. S. Infantry, 1814-1815

18th U. S. INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1814-1815

(Plate No. 102)

The dress worn by the Regular Infantry in 1812 and 1813 has already been illustrated and described in this series.¹ Attractive and serviceable, it was withal too elaborate for wartime production, and a move toward a simpler uniform had been under way for some while. On 30 March 1813, Callender Irvine, Commissary General, wrote to the Secretary of War that every officer of the Army "whose judgment & taste ought to be consulted" would approve the substitution of "A plain blue coatee, without a particle of red to it, with white or buff cross belts, white vests & white overalls with black gaiters for Infantry & Artillery . . . The coats should be single breasted, to button from the collar to the waist."² Less than a month later, with commendable dispatch, Irvine sent three infantry coats of slightly different patterns to the Secretary of War, requesting that the seal be affixed to the pattern chosen.³ A few days thereafter, on 1 May, the "Changes in the Uniform of the Army of the United States" were approved by the Secretary of War and issued as regulations. This uniform of 1813 is described in considerable detail in various printed sources and need not be more than outlined here.⁴ The infantry coat was ordered to be "uniformly blue. No red collars or cuffs." Lace was no longer to be worn by any grade "excepting in epaulets and sword knots."

The officers' coat lost thereby its white skirt facing and scarlet diamond. The platoon officers' "coatee" was abolished, and all commissioned ranks were required to wear skirts reaching to the knee. These changes, doubtless an attempt to standardize the coat in the face of rapidly shifting rank, made it practically the former undress uni-

form, and so the rules with respect to undress were done away with except that the cockades were always to be worn. The coat, then, was "single breasted, with ten buttons, and button holes worked in blue twist" straight across the front, "i.e. not to represent herringbone." The collar was blue, with two buttons on each side, trimmed with blue twist. The skirts were blue, as was the "diamond." Buttons were "silver or plated."

The coat of the enlisted men remained a "coatee" with short skirt, but with blue collar, cuffs, and, presumably, skirts. The new regulations are very vague concerning the soldiers' uniform, but a stray remark concerning it is that its button holes were to be "trimmed with tape on the collar only." Yet one of the coats which Irvine sent to the Secretary of War for his approval in April 1813 had "white cord on the breast, in imitation of holes," and it seems possible that this was the one selected. Contemporary estimates of materials necessary for clothing include "white cord for trimming the button holes of coats and infantry pantaloons."⁵

Officers' vests remained white. Breeches and pantaloons were of white nankeen in summer, but a heavier blue material was permitted for winter.

Drummers' and fifers' coats were still made of scarlet cloth, but now with the cuffs and collars of the same color as the coat. Incidentally, one is struck by a peculiarity of the fit of both coats and jackets during this period and for the twenty years immediately following, the extremely long sleeves which were cut to cover most of the hand. The Commissary General was informed on 24 October 1814, that, owing to the inferior quality of the cloth, "The sleeve of a jacket, being cut to come to the knuckle, after wetting will shrink nearly to the wrist bone."⁶

On 23 January 1813, the Secretary of War acknowledged the receipt of a new model infantry cap and approved it, suggesting only minor altera-

¹ Plate No. 20, *MC&H*, II, 15. I have covered this subject in greater detail in *Journal of the American Military Institute*, III, 185-96, and much of what follows is extracted from this source.

² Sect. of War, Doc. File, 1813 (Natl. Arch.).

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Military Laws and Rules and Regulations for the Army of the United States*, 28 June 1814 (Washington, 1814), pp. 262-77; a shorter version, taken from the Army Regulations of 1 May 1813, is contained in *American State Papers, Military Affairs*, I, 433-34. Uniform regulations of 1813 quoted hereafter are from the first of these.

⁵ Estimate of Deputy Commissary Amasa Stetson of materials needed for 1814, 22 February 1814, in Com. Gen. of Purchase, Doc. File (Natl. Arch.).

⁶ Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown to Com. Gen. of Purchases, 14 October 1814, Doc. File (Natl. Arch.).

tions.⁷ In February estimates were received for "leather hats with tin mounting or front pieces" at \$1.92 each, and in March the first contracts were let for their manufacture.⁸ These new caps were being distributed at least as early as October.⁹

The style of the new cap was almost identical with the British, having a front rising above the crown. But many of the American leather caps had their fronts and crowns as one piece, and this seems to have been the type most common in the Regular

⁷ Irvine, memorandum on clothing, no date, in Sect. of War, Doc. File, 1812; Sect. of War to Com. Gen. of Purchases, 23 January 1813 in Sect. of War, Military Book, VI (Nat. Arch.).

⁸ Bids and estimates, Com. Gen. of Purchases (Nat. Arch.).

⁹ Invoice of shipment of clothing to 44th Infantry at New Orleans, 14 October 1813, in Com. Gen. of Purchases, Doc. File (Nat. Arch.).

Establishment. Caps normally were fitted with a braided cord and tassel, of silver for officers and white for men; a leather cockade and a white worsted pompon, worn on the left side; and a white metal plate.

The 18th Infantry was selected for this plate since there is an inspection report in the National Archives on the regiment dated 31 December 1814 which tells something of its dress and accouterments. There were deficiencies in several articles of clothing, in sergeants' swords, brushes and picks, and other items. The knapsacks were worn and poorly designed. And the men wore blue woolen pantaloons. They are so shown in this plate; only the sergeant has been given the white breeches and leggings which constituted the dress uniform.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

1st REGIMENT OF RHODE ISLAND DETACHED MILITIA, 1861

(Plate No. 103)

The First Rhode Island was like most of the regiments that responded to the President's call of 15 April 1861 from the Eastern cities; it was composed of Volunteer Militia companies ordered out by the Governor for three months. In this case the companies—some of which were of considerable age—were only temporarily organized into a regiment in April 1861, and they returned to their independent status when the First was mustered out on 2 August of the same year.¹

Not only is the uniform of the Regiment fully described in several sources, but it was extensively sketched and photographed after the men arrived on the Potomac. It consisted of: "the regulation hat, a loose blue blouse, and gray pantaloons. A plain leather belt around the waist sustains the cartridge-box, the bayonet, and six-barrelled revolver, with which each man is armed. The officers are distinguished by a small gold strap on the

shoulders; they wear a sash and a long sabre, and a revolver supported by a plain belt. Seven companies are armed with long-range rifle muskets and bayonets, and three with United States rifles and sword-bayonets. . . . Each man carries strapped diagonally across his back a large red blanket, which has a striking effect."²

The First Rhode Island was organized and commanded by Ambrose E. Burnside, who personally superintended the manufacture of its uniform. "He had the thick scarlet blanket of each man converted into a Mexican *poncho*, by cutting a slit in the centre through which the head could be put, leaving the blanket resting as a cloak on the shoulders." Burnside himself wore this uniform with its "broad-brimmed Kossuth hat."³

Burnside did even more than this; he had invented and patented a breechloading carbine in 1856, and he arranged to have six men in each of the ten companies armed with it. In June, while

¹ Augustus Woodbury, *A Narrative of the Campaign of the First Rhode Island Regiment* . . . , Providence, 1862. In addition to this history by the Regimental Chaplain, there is considerable information to be found in Ben. Perley Poore, *The Life and Public Services of Ambrose E. Burnside*, Providence, 1882.

² *Rebellion Record, 1860-61*, doc. 80, 125.

³ Poore, *op. cit.*, 93-4, 112.

in Washington, these men were consolidated into a separate company (called "Carbineers") to serve as skirmishers and sharpshooters. The company totalled 73 men who thereafter marched at the head of the Regiment. The normal arm was the .58 caliber rifle musket, model of 1855.⁴

The American Brass Band of Providence had volunteered to accompany the Regiment and was accepted. According to an account in a South Carolina newspaper, four vivandieres were along when the second part of the outfit passed through Annapolis on its way south.⁵

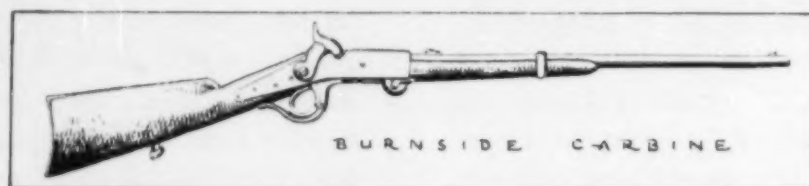
⁴ *Ibid.*, 102; Woodbury, *op. cit.*, 224.

⁵ *Charleston Daily Courier*, 3 May 1861.

In its dress the First Rhode Island was quite distinctive. Yet the Second Rhode Island (a three-year regiment) wore almost the same uniform, and one can find other cases of the shirt adapted as a blouse in Western regiments. Apparently the hat and cap were worn indiscriminately by the Rhode Islanders after the first month.

The Regiment served in Burnside's brigade at First Bull Run, taking an early part in the action. For a time it stood up well, but after two or three hours of heat and combat it fell to pieces and was of little value afterward.

John Severin
Frederick P. Todd



BATTERY K, 1st U. S. ARTILLERY, 1845-1898

(Plate No. 104)

This plate is based, in the main, upon three drawings by Frederic Remington of the men of Battery K during a practice march through New England in the summer of 1895.¹ The full dress at this time, it will be recalled, was a short blue coat and medium blue trousers, trimmed with scarlet, and a black felt helmet with brass fittings and scarlet horse or buffalo hair plume.² Here, however, we see the men in the more common uniforms of camp and garrison.

The officer wears the dark blue undress "sack coat" with black mohair braid, which was authorized for wear by all officers in 1895.³ For twenty-five years after the Civil War they had worn a dark blue sack coat with five buttons and a roll collar for undress. In 1892 this had given way to an elab-

orately braided coat, similar to a model worn by the British Army.⁴ It had proved to be too elaborate and in 1895 was stripped of most of its braid to make the coat shown in the plate. This style was worn until after the First World War.

With this undress blouse came a new style of undress cap, replacing the so-called "chasseur" pattern, with its straight visor, which dated from before the Civil War. Contemporary critics called the new cap "a cross between the cap of a sleeping-car porter and that now worn by naval officers," and a "most unmartial looking head-piece" usually worn by bicycle riders.⁵ This cap is not shown in the plate, but the discussion over it suggests recent criticism of the Air Force uniform.

The First Sergeant wears the blue service uniform which had so long characterized the Army,

¹ *Harper's Weekly*, 17 August 1895.

² See H. A. Ogden's plate XLII in the Quartermaster series.

³ GO 22, AGO, 12 April 1895; the effective date for its adoption was 1 July 1895.

⁴ GO 68, 29 September 1892.

⁵ The military artist Rufus F. Zogbaum, writing in *Harper's Weekly*, 4 May 1895. This cap was authorized by GO 22, AGO, 12 April 1895.

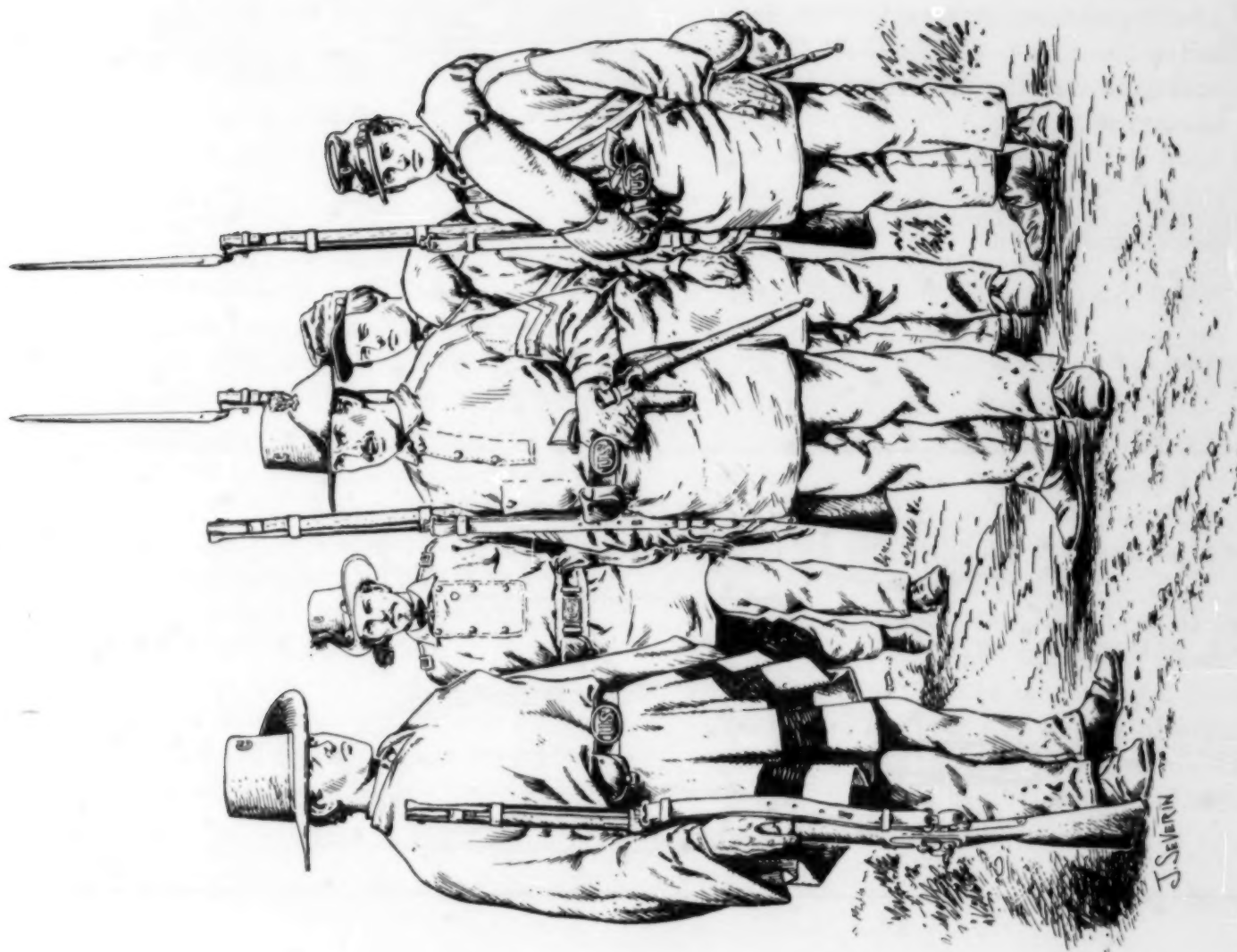


Corporal, Stable
Feed

1st Sergeant, Summer
Fatigue Dress

Captain, Summer Undress
Uniform

Battery K, 1st U.S. Artillery, 1895-1898



Private

Company Officer

Corporal

Private

1st Regiment of Rhode Island Detached Militia, 1861

while the Guidon Corporal has on a white canvas stable frock.⁶ All of the Artillerymen wear cork summer helmets, covered with white cotton drilling, which had been adopted in 1880.⁷ The extent to which this helmet was actually worn is a matter of some mystery; it seems to have been a question of the whim of local commanders. Enlisted men had a small chinstrap of white enameled leather, while officers wore the same brass chinstraps as used on the full dress helmet. The enlisted men's sabers are of the 1840 model which was worn until this side arm was abandoned by the Field Artillery about the time of the First World War. The Guidon Corporal has put his gauntlets into his saber knot, holding them down against the tassel by means of the keeper—a favorite practice.

A word about the guidon. The model carried by the batteries of Artillery came in both silk and bunting, of the same size and design. The bunting version showed in reverse the letters on its reverse. Such was and still is the practice with most guidons.⁸

The saddle leather is shown as black, but in 1897 experiments were made with russet leather horse equipment. Other elements of the horse furnishings are regulation, and will be described in more detail in a future plate.

The period of the plate terminates at 1898, for in that year the Regiment received khaki uniforms and much of the fatigue clothing illustrated became obsolete then or soon thereafter.

A light battery on war footing consisted of six guns and nine caissons with limbers for each, a combined battery wagon and field forge, and one relatively light artillery wagon. Five officers, one hundred and seventy-five enlisted men, and one hundred and forty-four horses made up the complete war compliment. The standard light field gun was the 3.2-inch B. L. Rifle M1885 (modified), mounted on an all-steel carriage with flask trail, Archibald wheels, double bow brakes, two axle seats for cannoneers, and lazy-tongs pattern elevating device.

In garrison, all individually mounted men and all drivers were armed with the saber. When in the field, sergeants of all grades were armed with the saber and revolver; lower ranks were armed with revolver and hunting knife.

In addition to articles of uniform shown in the plate, each man was issued a light blue overcoat with scarlet-lined detachable cape, dark blue flannel shirts, campaign hat, canvas leggings and black leather shoes.

Cannoneers packed their gear in knapsacks and haversacks; mounted men packed in the saddle rolls and saddle bags. Blankets (for the men) were packed in section rolls and stowed in the wagons.

In a light battery there were: First sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, stable and veterinary sergeants, chiefs of section, caisson corporals, trumpeters and guidons. In horse batteries all cannoneers were also individually mounted.⁶

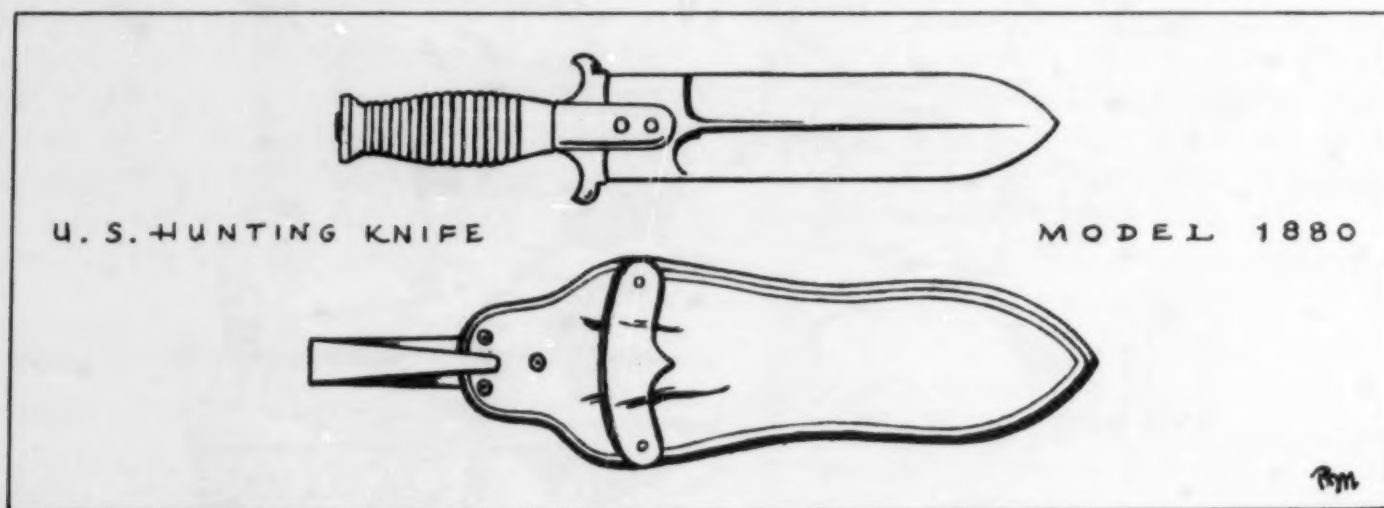
Frederick P. Todd

⁶ See H. A. Ogden's plate XLIV in the Quartermaster series, and QMGO Specifications, 12 March 1879 (no. 15).

⁷ QMGO Specifications, 5 May 1880 (no. 2), and 5 Aug. 1892 (no. 330).

⁸ QMGO Specifications, 15 Nov. 1895 (nos. 381 and 382).

⁶ U. S. War Dept., *Drill Regulations for Light Artillery*, 1885-1896; A. B. Dyer, *Handbook for Light Artillery*, New York, 1896.



COLLECTORS FIELD BOOK



ANOTHER MILITIA CAP PLATE

This apparently war worn specimen is of brass, with wire-loop fasteners on the reverse side. It was found on the Gettysburg battlefield some years after the battle, which is surprising in view of the fact that the plate is of the 1825-1840 period. It is not unique in this respect, however, since several museums at Gettysburg exhibit buttons, belt plates, and cross-belt plates of the period 1812-1848 found on the battlefield, to which they were almost certainly brought by the Confederates. The appreciable size of this plate makes it difficult to imagine where or how the soldier wore it, assuming that it was the property of a Confederate.

An interesting but not too practical idea has been advanced that this type of plate was on occasion applied to the old slouch hat in an effort to achieve a more martial and certainly an individual appearance.

J. Duncan Campbell

VIEW ON THE ROAD TO MANASSAS

The picture reproduced here is an original pencil drawing touched up with light water-color tones, meant for publication as a woodcut in an illustrated magazine. I have heard that this picture has been so reproduced, either in *Harper's* or *Leslies'*, but I have not myself seen it in that state.

The artist's name was Thompson, although his initials cannot be made out; clearly one of the war artists who, like Alfred Waud and Winslow Homer, covered the early campaigns of the Civil War. His scene shows Virginia troops assembling, probably prior to First Manassas.

Most noticeable are the helmeted troopers labelled "14th Va. Dragoons." These men were from Company H, 14th Virginia Cavalry, C.S.A., better known as the Rockbridge Dragoons. Another picture of them appears in the 17 August 1861 issue of *Harper's Weekly*, where the company is called the "Dragoon Guards."

Rockbridge County furnished two organizations to the Confederate Army in the early days of the war. One of them was the Dragoons, who it is said had existed for some years before the war. Traveling through Lexington (the county seat) in 1949 Member J. Duncan Campbell reported he found three of these leather helmets, all complete with pewter front plates, and all zealously guarded by their owners. The close similarity of these Rockbridge Dragoon helmets to the ones worn by the Regular Light Dragoons in 1812 (see *MC&H*, V, 45-6) was at once apparent.

Another interesting uniform detail in the picture is the "Corsican" cap on the head of the third infantryman from the left. Such caps, with their long, hanging and tasselled crowns, were worn by several early Southern outfits.

What an enchanting little boite is the "House of Entertainment." The artist has thoughtfully given us a close-up of the tavern sign, from which we learn that the beer had plenty of life and effervescence and that the cakes were round. Times change, and by now, no doubt, Howard Johnson has improved the landscape.

A. M. Craighead

CAKES &
BEER

14th Va. Brigade



View on the Road from Oak Hill to Manassas Junction Va
House of Entertainment

GAZETTE

The Secretary has announced the approval of the Board of Governors of the following ladies and gentlemen as active members of The Company:

Paul M. Angle, Chicago, Illinois
 George T. Anton, Frederick, Maryland
 Donald J. Binder, Yankton, South Dakota
 Major Richard E. Bozeman, U.S.A.
 Col. Walter G. Bryte, Jr., Washington, D. C.
 Marshall W. Butt, Portsmouth, Virginia
 Capt. Richard F. Casper, U.S.A.
 Peter F. Copeland, New York, N. Y.
 Richard N. Ferris, South Hadley Falls, Mass.
 James J. Finucane, Buffalo, New York
 Herbert C. E. Frost, Roslyn, New York
 James H. Gates, Dayton, Ohio
 Donald F. Green, Elmhurst, New York
 Sgt. Albert W. Haarmann, U.S.A.F.
 Vernon W. Hogan, Tenafly, New Jersey
 Manfred E. Huffman, Fair Lawn, New Jersey
 Kenneth Ivan Hunt, Butler, Wisconsin
 Capt. Albert L. Hutson, Jr., U.S.A.
 Leon Olexie Jedynak, Trenton, New Jersey
 Kenneth A. Main, Watertown, New York
 F. Van Wyck Mason, Baltimore, Maryland
 1st Lieut. William L. McFarland, Jr., Tacoma, Wash.
 Eleanor S. Murray, Fort Ticonderoga, New York
 John H. G. Pell, Fort Ticonderoga, New York
 Capt. Donald R. Perkins, Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Milton F. Perry, West Point, New York
 Robert M. Rohrberg, New York, N. Y.
 William Wakefield Roush, Austin, Texas
 Sqn. Sgt. Maj. Ronald William Sargent, British Army
 George F. Scheer, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
 John S. Van B. Shriver, Baltimore, Maryland
 Willard P. Snyder, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Col. C. P. Stacey, Canadian Army
 William H. Steinberg, Jr., Port Chester, New York
 Gerald C. Stowe, West Point, New York
 Charles A. Sweet, Jr., Bristol, Connecticut
 Thomas F. Thiele, Rockville, Maryland
 Richard Tyler, Norristown, Pennsylvania
 Paul J. Westergard, Plainfield, New Jersey
 H. G. Young, Morris Plains, New Jersey

★ ★ ★

The wind that blew over Fort Ticonderoga Saturday 14 May was a fair one for the members of The Company. It was fresh enough to unfurl the flags of France, England and America over the grey walls and red roofs of the citadel. The wind did also blow the ladies hair as we all lined up for our Rangers' lunch of steaks and salad at the Picnic Grounds. But every hair was back in place for the Annual Dinner when The Company, with its ladies and guests, 85 strong, gathered at Macauley's Ethan Allen Room.

The traditional greeting of new members took place, and we were reminded of the nation-wide distribution of our fellows when Maine and Cali-

fornia stood up to be introduced. Though California is far from "Fort Ti," the Union of South Africa is further, and Member and Mrs. Percival W. Cahill had arrived from Johannesburg against headwinds, just in the nick of time.

At the Dinner, two new members were proposed, seconded and voted members of our Company: our host, Mr. John H. G. Pell, Director, and Miss Eleanor S. Murray, Manager of Fort Ticonderoga. In their personal membership—The Fort is one of our oldest institutional members — The Company is enriched by two individuals who have done much in the field of military collecting and history, as all who saw the Museum can attest.

We were privileged at the dinner to witness a personal exchange between President Larter and Mr. Pell. In a little ceremony Colonel Larter returned a small American Flag to the perpetual care of the Fort. It was the flag Mr. Stephen Pell, founder of Fort Ticonderoga Museum, gave to Larter in 1942 and which Larter carried across the Remagen Bridge on the armored car "Fort Ti" to plant on German soil as the first Stars and Stripes over the Rhine.

After a day seeing Fort Ti it was good to have Mr. Pell tell the story with colored slides so that we were able to sort out all the pieces of military history witnessed during the day.

Mr. Pell's cocktail party in the King's Garden, built by French officers in the 1750's, was enjoyed by all, as was our private lounge where coffee and doughnuts were on tap and where the radio dramatization of the "Fort Ticonderoga Story" was played. It was in this lounge, as well as around any convenient cannon or bastion, that members got together for that exchange of information which is such an important part of our organization.

Sunday morning, in the East Bastion of the Amherst Wall, the members held a military critique of Fort Ticonderoga. Colonel Downey led off the discussion from the artilleryman's point of view, with Lt. Foster Tallman looking at the walls and position as an infantry platoon commander with a tough nut to crack. Jack Cuneo, from his studies of Ranger Robert Rogers, was well qualified to appraise the reconnaissance problems incident to the siege of the Fort.



Under a most pleasant sky, Members John Wirth and Ross Collins relax by one of Fort Ti's ancient field pieces.



The discussion group in assembly during Sunday afternoon. Members Eleanor Murray and Harrison Bird, who did so much to organize our successful meeting, are readily identifiable in the foreground.

While most of the members found it necessary to start for home Sunday noon, a few were able to journey to Crown Point where a comparison between the reconstructed Fort Ticonderoga and the two ruined forts there could be made.

The Company is most grateful to Members Pell and Murray, and to their Museum staff, for the extraordinary hospitality and welcome we enjoyed as guests of the Fort. All who attended will agree to the excellence of the arrangements and the interest of our hosts.

But it was not all one sided. What we may not realize is the position in which The Company is regarded in our field of interest, and which was exemplified at the Fort Ticonderoga Museum. Aware of its curatorial limitations the Museum staff was able to use the knowledge of our membership to redesignate many objects in the Museum about which it was in doubt.

We regret that space prevents us from listing the members and their guests who attended this meeting.

* * *

On the day of the Fort Ticonderoga meeting, Saturday, 14 May, there died at Walter Reed Hospital our oldest and highest ranking Company member, General Charles P. Summerall. His death, after a long illness, came as no surprise, but it was a great loss to us nonetheless. "Old Sitting Bull" was deeply concerned with military history and tradition, and had close ties with The Company and various of its members; he was, for example, the best man at Secretary West's wedding. The Citadel, where he was President during the latter years of his life, was one of the first institutions to subscribe to this journal and its plates. We were truly honored to have General Summerall as a colleague and the gap left by his passing can never quite be filled.

* * *

Member Ross F. Collins, Captain, USNR (ret.) brought with him to the Annual Meeting a triple invitation, readily accepted by the Board of Gover-

nors, to hold the 1956 COMPANY Meeting at Annapolis, Maryland. The invitation came from the Superintendent of the U. S. Naval Academy, the President of St. John's College, and the Mayor of the City of Annapolis.

So, if you made or missed Fort Ticonderoga this year, plan now to attend in Annapolis in 1956!

* * *

The following extract from the University of Pennsylvania *Bulletin*, relating to a course given in The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of that institution, tells of the work of Member (Dr., Lt. Col.) George Bell Dyer:

651. *Basic Intelligence Methods and International Communication*. Both terms. W. 2-4 Dyer. Fall term: Overt intelligence techniques in the evaluation of world affairs. Spring term: International communication, to include freedom of information as opposed to covert intelligence activities and psychological warfare.

It should be added that the course is given jointly by Member Dyer and his wife, Dr. Charlotte Leavitt Dyer. As one member remarked: "It sounds like one fascinating course to me!"

* * *

COMPANY Member Ted Haskell, of Lansing, Michigan, has done a diorama for the Michigan Historical Museum. It is entitled "Friend or Foe?", and depicts a meeting between a group of Chipewewa Indians and a French exploring party near Sault Ste. Marie. The figures represent three French types important in early Michigan history—the priest, the soldier, and the voyageur.

In the diorama, the young hunters and their chief are portrayed as Indians of the Algonquian Nation that lived in Michigan forests. The habit of the Jesuit figure is based on a statue of Father Jogues, who was martyred by the Indians in 1646. The soldier's uniform follows that of the French regiment of Carignan-Sallieres,¹ which is considered to be the first regular unit of any army to serve on the North American continent. The two voyageurs are dressed in costumes that include many of the features described and pictured in early accounts of the period.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

On 12 May *American Silver Mounted Swords, 1700-1815*, by Governor and Vice-President Harold L. Peterson came off the press. This 60-page booklet, a catalogue raisonne of an exhibition held at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, is of particular interest to Company members for several reasons. First, it makes a new contribution in the field of study to which the Company is dedicated. Second, and no less important, it was planned, produced and financed almost entirely by Company members. Over sixty members in all participated in the project, which was a non-profit venture to make the data on this important group of silver mounted swords available to all students.

The catalog itself contains descriptions of 81 individual swords manufactured by American silversmiths. Seventy-two of them (all but exact duplicates) are illustrated in large clear photographs. There is also an index of all American silversmiths known to have mounted swords and a guide to published illustrations of their work. Finally, there are two pages illustrating the more important silversmith's marks found on the swords in the exhibition.

Only 600 copies of this catalog were printed, and of these more than 550 copies were taken by the 64 individual patrons. Thus less than 50 copies are left for general sale. By making this the first public announcement of the book's appearance, it is the publication committee's aim to give Company members the first opportunity to purchase them. Those interested should send \$2.50 to Capt. Charles West, Company Secretary.

★ ★ ★

While on the subject of Company members in the publications business, it is a pleasure to be able to announce here that Governor and Associate Editor Tom Parker has founded Rampart House, a publishing firm dedicated to the production of military books and prints. The first venture of the new firm will be a handsome volume of facsimiles of some of the famous Huddy and Duval prints, which is scheduled to appear this fall. As presently planned, it will contain a copy of the original black-and-

white frontispiece and 18 hand colored prints from the uniform series. The original text describing the units and uniforms will be reproduced as well as an introduction by Governor and Executive Vice-President Anne S. K. Brown and a preface by Tom Parker. More complete data will appear in these columns as soon as it has been printed.

Other projects now under consideration for publication by Rampart House include several series of small colored prints of American soldiers and note paper bearing outline drawings of standard uniform types to assist students in recording data on interesting specimens they may happen to encounter.

This new venture is an exciting and promising one. It has our best wishes for success, and we eagerly await its first products.

★ ★ ★

Otherwise the past three months have witnessed the publication of two books of especial interest to students of firearms. These are *Firearms Curiosa* by Lewis Winant (Greenberg, \$12.50) and the latest edition of *Small Arms of the World* by W. H. B. Smith (Military Service, \$10.00).

In *Firearms Curiosa* Lewis Winant has presented a fascinating account of unusual guns of all ages. Some were combined with other weapons or concealed in belts, knives or canes. Some had unusual mechanisms or devices for loading or firing; some served special functions, such as alarm or trap guns; and still others were complete and working miniatures. The text is interestingly written, and the illustrations are excellent. There are 281 pages, including index, and 321 photographs and drawings. Everyone who is interested in firearms will enjoy this book; those with a flair for mechanics will have a field day. Published in a limited edition of 1,000 numbered copies, it may be purchased either directly from the publisher or from your regular military book dealer.

The new edition of *Small Arms of the World* by W. H. B. Smith represents the fifth edition and 13th printing of this remarkably useful volume since it first appeared in 1943. Because of this great pop-

ularity and high production rate the publisher has been able to present this large (768-page) copiously illustrated book at its present reasonable rate. For those who are not already familiar with this standard reference, it should be noted that it contains a book length 230-page historical introduction on the development of small arms and 526 pages of basic data on the current arms of all nations with complete take-down instructions, descriptions, and information on ballistics and function. In short, to quote *The American Rifleman*, it "now represents the most comprehensive manual of military small arms ever published in the English language."

★ ★ ★

Making a retrospective roundup of interesting books, we find the Canadians—and specifically one Canadian—have been especially productive in recent years. Colonel Harold McGill Jackson, of Ottawa, has written these Canadian regimental histories: *The Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, a History* (1952), *The Royal Regiment of Artillery, Ottawa, 1855-1952* (1952), and *The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's), 1928-1953* (1953). These are all fairly small booklets, written specifically for the outfits concerned, and can be secured only from them.

Colonel Jackson is also the co-author with Professor G. F. G. Stanley of *Canada's Soldiers, 1604-1954* (Macmillan's of Canada, Ltd., 70 Bond Street, Toronto, 1954).

This is a far more scholarly work of 402 pages and 22 maps, which traces Canada's military tradition and organization from their beginnings until the present. It can be obtained through most book sellers for about \$4.00. It has been highly rated by military historians who have read it.

Colonel Jackson has written two other unit histories: *Rogers' Rangers, a History* (privately published, 1953, \$3.00) and *The Queen's Rangers in Upper Canada, 1792 and After* (privately published, 1955, \$1.50). Both of these moderately sized, unpretentious but informative books can be secured by writing Colonel Jackson at War Service Records, D.V.A., 325 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

★ ★ ★

Speaking of Rogers' Rangers, those of us who made the Fort Ticonderoga meeting had the good fortune to get a small preview of Member John R. Cuneo's coming history of the Rangers and their

extraordinary leader. This work, based upon meticulous and apparently exhaustive research, promises to be the definitive history of the celebrated corps.

★ ★ ★

Turning to the other side of the world we find another valuable contribution by Dr. H. H. Curson of Pretoria, South Africa (whose address is 16, Myrtle Street). His *Regimental Devices in South Africa, 1783-1954* was published in 1954. It covers the cap, collar and other badges of about 300 military units which, at one time or another, were established in what is now the Union of South Africa. The devices are illustrated by clear photographs and are adequately described. Dr. Curson does not hesitate to admit uncertainty where such exists, and his critical, open approach is a model for similar work in this country.

This makes the third significant publication of its kind to come out of South Africa in recent years. First was Dr. Curson's *Colours and Honours in South Africa, 1783-1948* (1948), and next Major G. Tylden's *The Armed Forces of South Africa* (MC&H, VI, 83-84). An impressive and interlocking trilogy!

★ ★ ★

Another coming book by two members has been announced. Member Frederick T. Chapman and Editor-in-Chief Frederick P. Todd have signed a contract with the Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., for an extensively illustrated history of the U. S. Military Academy uniform, tentatively titled "Cadet Gray." Beamed at young and old alike, its appearance is planned in the fall. The book will contain 14 full color plates by Member Chapman.

★ ★ ★

The manuscript of Associate Editor Harold L. Peterson's "Arms and Armor in Colonial America, 1526-1783," has been turned over to The Company for its official endorsement. The reviewing board is now being selected, and a full announcement of its findings will be made in the next issue. It would be impolitic to attempt a value judgment at this time, but those of us who have watched the steady, careful growth of this work over the past twelve years into the rich, mature compilation of today have no doubt of its importance in its field.

An excellent and copiously illustrated history of the Royal Artillery Band, 1762-1953, by Henry George Farmer, has recently been issued in London by the Royal Artillery Institution. Besides a large number of halftone plates from contemporary documents, portraits, paintings and photographs, The Company's old friend and Honorary Member, Captain Cecil C. P. Lawson, has designed a series of uniform plates to illustrate the history of the uniform from the early 18th century to the present.

The author is an authority on military music all over the world and has provided a well-documented and entertaining text. The book sells for £1-1s (about \$3.00) and may be procured through the Royal Artillery Institution, London, S.E. 18.

★ ★ ★

Member Fairfax Downey's *Dogs for Defense* (edited and distributed by Daniel P. McDonald, 99 Wall Street, New York 5, N. Y., as an official publication of Dogs for Defense, Inc.) continues his warm and readable books about animals and soldiers. The association could hardly have secured a more sympathetic author for this story of the K-9 Corps in World War II.

There is a broad introduction to war dogs in general, with chapters on selection, training, and the many aspects of our use of dogs overseas and in the zone of interior. There is a section on Dogs for Defense, Inc.; and there are some illustrations. All interested in copies should write Mr. McDonald.

★ ★ ★

Member Edward S. Wallace's *The Great Reconnaissance* (Little Brown, 1955, \$5.00) has already been extensively and, on the whole, favorably reviewed in the Nation's press. Let us quote a portion of what Charles Poore (*New York Times*, 21 April 1955) had to say about it: "This is a wonderfully interesting portfolio of true tales about the soldiers, surveyors, artists and scientists whose purposeful wanderings opened up the West between the end of the Mexican War and the beginning of the Civil War. Although Mr. Wallace's hospitable volume is not precisely a work of dedicated scholarship, it

skims skillfully over vast reservoirs of material. Once you have read this book you can follow its leads to the original sources, particularly the reports of boundary commissions and the writings of men who not only knew they were making history but enjoyed or hated it thoroughly."

★ ★ ★

There has always been a gap in American military writing which many have talked about but few have tried to fill. The immense field of U. S. Army customs, traditions and general lore still remains unrecorded. The Navy has its *Naval Customs, Traditions and Usage*, by Lieutenant Commander Leland P. Lovette, which has gone through three editions and twelve printings since it first appeared in 1934. Even this was not the first of its kind. Still the Army possesses nothing comparable.

A Regular, stationed in Japan, Major Mark M. Boatner, III, has taken the first step to fill this gap by publishing *Army Lore: and Customs of the Service*. The book was the outcome of Major Boatner's earlier writing for the Combat Forces Press where many of us will remember meeting him before. Privately published in Japan, the volume is difficult to obtain. It is by the author's own admission a tentative compilation aimed primarily at outfits in the Far East. A large portion has been lifted directly from *The Army Lineage Book*. Some of his explanations are based upon the rather weak historical sands of Colonels James A. Moss and Robert E. Wyllie. But Major Boatner's contribution is most important and very readable withal.

★ ★ ★

The New York Historical Society has announced that William L. Calver and Reginald P. Bolton's *History Written with Pick and Shovel . . .* has been given a new printing of 500 copies by the Society. This useful compilation of the articles on military archeology written by these men was mentioned in *MC&H*, II, 64 (December 1950) and thereafter has often been cited as a reference. Members will be glad to know it is again available at \$3.50 a copy by writing the Society, 170 Central Park West, New York 24, N.Y.

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